

AccessLetter

**Cambridge Commission for
Persons with Disabilities**

CCPD Board Votes to Oppose Assisted Suicide Ballot Question

At its monthly Commission meeting on September 13, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Board voted to oppose the ballot initiative Question 2, "Prescribing Medication to End Life", that will appear on the ballot November 6th.

If passed by the voters, Question 2 would allow a physician licensed in Massachusetts to prescribe lethal medication, at the request of a person diagnosed with a terminal illness, to allow that person to commit suicide. For more information, including the text of this question, visit: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/ele12/ballot_questions_12/quest_2.htm.

At first glance, Question 2 might sound like it gives individuals choice and autonomy, but the experience in the two states that have passed such laws leads CCPD to be very concerned. Modeled after Oregon and Washington's assisted suicide laws, Question 2 fails to correct problems that have led to documented cases of abuse, discrimination, and pressures to choose suicide over medical treatment based on cost considerations.

The National Council on Disability (NCD) Position Paper on Assisted Suicide states that: "The dangers of

**(More on Assisted
Suicide, page 2)**

Let's Get Out To Vote!

Too often we hear people say that they are not going to bother to vote because it will not make a difference. Maybe they dislike politicians, or they

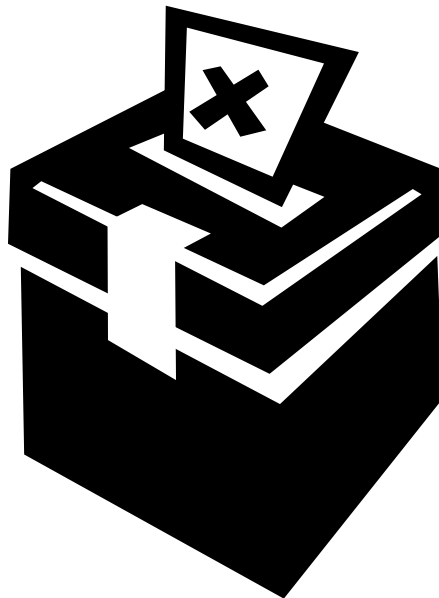
don't trust government or they're just angry about the economy. Perhaps they complain about what government is or isn't doing for them, like: "Government is the problem -- it is too big (or too small)." Nonetheless, without government we would not have many of the protections and rights that we now have. In particular, we would not have the right to vote.

As citizens, it is our inalienable right -- and in some vital sense, our duty -- to get out and vote. How can we complain about our condition if we remain passive

onlookers and do not participate in the process of determining our fate? Meanwhile, with the recent Citizens United decision by the Supreme Court, big corporations are now able to manipulate elections more easily than ever before, spending virtually unlimited amounts of money on television and radio ads in support of their favorite political causes or candidates.

We, the people, win elections by getting out to vote. We are smarter than the propaganda that comes our way. We can see through the partisanship and make good decisions at the voting booth. We can't do this, though, if we are not registered to vote.

**(More on Let's Vote,
page 3)**



Successful Solutions: New Approaches to Integrating People with Disabilities into the Workplace

CCPD presents an exciting panel presentation exploring novel strategies to connecting people with disabilities to jobs:

Wednesday, October 17, 2012
5:30 PM to 8 PM at the Cambridge
Public Library, 449 Broadway.

See calendar listing on page 6 for
more information.

Assisted Suicide (cont. from page 1)

permitting physician-assisted suicide are immense. The pressures upon people with disabilities to choose to end their lives, and the insidious appropriation by others of the right to make that choice for them are already prevalent and will continue to increase as managed health care and limitations upon health care resources precipitate increased 'rationing' of health care services and health care financing."

NCD continues: "The so-called 'slippery slope' already operates in regard to individuals with disabilities...If assisted suicide were to be legalized, the most dire ramifications for people with disabilities would ensue unless stringent procedural prerequisites were established to prevent its misuse, abuse, improper application, and creeping expansion."

Members of the CCPD discussed a variety of concerns raised by Question 2. The following is only a partial list of issues relating to the proposed assisted suicide ballot initiative:

- **Lack of safeguards:** The current language shows a striking lack of oversight and safeguards, putting people at risk of being misdiagnosed and receiving inadequate treatment (including mental health treatment). This is a recipe for elder abuse -- according to the Patients' Rights Council, already 1 in 10 Massachusetts elders are abused, an increase of 31% in the last three years.
- **Delegated Decision-making:** The proposed law has a marked lack of clarity as to the impact of existing state laws regarding Health Care Proxy and Durable Power of Attorney in implementing assisted suicide. Under this initiative, an heir could be a witness and help someone sign up for assisted suicide despite a potential conflict of interest. Once a lethal drug is in the home, there is no requirement for professional oversight to monitor how that drug is administered.
- **Expected Survival less than 6 months:** A physician must diagnose a person as having a

terminal condition with 6 months or less to live, opening the dangers of assisted suicide to many who are not terminally ill. Experience in Oregon and Washington shows that many people who appeared qualified within the defined time span, but declined assisted suicide, lived months or years beyond the doctor's estimate, or even survived to recover from their disease.

- **Lack of Mental Health Screening:** The proposed law does not require an independent mental health evaluation of persons requesting lethal prescription medication (two physicians must agree that a patient qualifies for assisted suicide, but there is no requirement for either of them to be psychologists or psychiatrists). This reflects a widespread cultural and scientific bias that people with terminal diagnoses who ask for help to commit suicide are *not* in need of a screening for depression or an evaluation for any other mental health diagnosis.
- **Continuity of Care:** The proposed law does not include any requirement to investigate cases where physicians who have known a patient over time have found the patient ineligible for the criteria for assisted suicide. Physicians new to such cases who agree to assist in suicide are protected under the proposed law if they simply claim they acted in "good faith" -- a standard so low as to make any purported safeguards unenforceable.

Many people in favor of assisted suicide are concerned about reducing unnecessary suffering in dying people; and many favor the idea of patients' "right to self-determination." Advances in *palliative care* and *hospice medicine* have made great strides in the last two decades. Yet the proposed law offers suicide as a resolution to suffering without any requirement that all avenues of palliative treatment be exhausted to alleviate a patient's suffering before suicide intervention.

The CCPD Board strongly encourages readers in every Massachusetts city and town to seek out education and information on the complexities of

Question 2, in order to cast an informed vote in November. For more information on assisted suicide, including those that particularly impact the human rights of individuals with disabilities, visit <www.second-thoughts.org> or <www.dredf.org>.

Let's Vote (cont. from page 1)

The deadline to register to vote is Wednesday, October 17 at 8PM. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Monday, November 5 at 12 Noon. Please call 617-349-4361 or e-mail: <elections2@cambridgema.gov> for details on how to register so that on Tuesday, November 6, you can vote. If you need assistance to complete a voter registration form, please let the Elections Commission know.

To find out where you vote and who will be on your ballot, visit: <www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx>. Another great resource for voter information is MassVote, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization: <www.MassVote.org>.

Polls are open from 7AM to 8PM. If you experience any problems at the polls, first ask an election worker to help you. If not, contact the Election Protection Hotline at 866-Our-Vote (866-687-8683).

Cambridge residents with disabilities who need information on transportation, resources to assist with completing the printed form, or have any other voting access questions or concerns, can contact the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities at 617-349-4692 or e-mail: <ccpd@cambridgema.gov>.

So the next time you hear yourself or someone else say that your vote will not make a difference, take a look around at the local, state and federal government benefits you or a loved one may be using. Do you send your children to Public Schools? Do you take fixed-route public transportation or The RIDE? Do you drive on public highways and want to see your roads and bridges maintained? Do you rely on Medicare or

Medicaid for healthcare? Do you receive or expect to receive Social Security? Do you use the Public Library? Do you recognize the importance, especially the history, of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)? Do you trust that the water is safe to drink and the air is free to breathe?

The next time we hear someone say that his or her vote does not matter, maybe we can tell that person why it actually does.

-JoAnn Haas

CCPD Hosts Community Access Monitor Training

On September 11 and 12, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities hosted a Community Access Monitor (CAM) Training, to



Chris Becker, MOD Access Specialist (center) explains how to survey a ramp to CAM trainees

teach individuals with disabilities and their allies the nuts and bolts of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and state and federal accessibility standards.

On the first day of the workshop, Jeff Dougan, Assistant Director for Community Services for the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) led training participants through the step-by-step process of understanding ADA requirements for

public accommodations and state and local governments.

On the second day of the workshop, Dougan and other MOD staff described and demonstrated how to conduct a facility site survey, to identify potential barriers to access for people with disabilities. "It was particularly helpful in figuring out which law applies where," said Rachel Tanenhaus of the CAM training, "and I really liked the hands-on aspect of the training, learning how to measure accessibility."

Cambridge In Motion Launches New Mobility Management Initiative

Over the next few months, Cambridge In Motion (CIM) will be embracing new mobility management efforts to make transportation more accessible, available and convenient for seniors and people with disabilities who live in, work in, or visit Cambridge. With leadership from SCM Community Transportation, who received a federal New Freedom grant to implement mobility management principles, Cambridge in Motion will be working on the following project goals:

- Educate current and potential transportation stakeholders about the attributes and benefits of mobility management principles.
- Promote the widest possible range of useful transport options for seniors and people with disabilities who live, work, learn, or play in Cambridge.
- Explore and catalogue all possible methods for coordination and cooperation between various transportation providers serving Cambridge,



with a goal of breaking down the silos that prevents such cooperation.

- Advocate for policy changes at the local, state and federal level that will result in improved coordination and enhance the travel and trade planning needs of individuals with disabilities and seniors.

Due to the inability of some individuals with disabilities to safely and independently use public transport to travel throughout the City of Cambridge and surrounding areas and the lack of understanding of the access features on buses and trains as well as the various accessible services provided by the MBTA, CIM will hire a travel trainer to provide intensive travel instruction to seniors and individuals with disabilities—providing them with the skills necessary to be independent travelers.

If you are interested in learning more about Cambridge In Motion, or want to volunteer to help with some of our initiatives, contact CCPD at 617-349-4692 (voice), 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail us at <ccpd@cambridgema.gov>.

Upcoming Events of Interest to the Disability Community (See end of Calendar for all weekly/recurring events)

- Oct. 1 **The Ugly Laws: Disability, Discrimination, and the Quest for Civil Rights** – Sponsored by the Quincy Commission on Disability, this presentation will describe the history of disability awareness and legislation in the United States from 1880 to the present and how this fits into the context of social changes from Post Civil War Reconstruction and Modern Urban Planning through present Urban Renewal. This event will be held from 5-8:30pm in the Community Meeting Room on the ground floor of the Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington Street, Quincy, MA 02169. For more information, contact Elias Reed at 617-785-2527 or <ReedQCOD@aol.com>.
- Oct. 2 **The Allen C. Crocker Speaker Series Presents: *The Massachusetts Anti-bullying Law: IEP and Schoolwide Strategies to Prevent Bullying of Students with Disabilities*** – Sponsored by the Children's Hospital Boston Down Syndrome Program, the Allen C. Crocker Speaker Series is designed for parents and families members seeking quality information from experts on a range of topics related to Down syndrome. This topic will be presented at 10am by Leslie Hughes from Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC). This speaker series is free and open to the public and talks are also webcast live and archived online. The presentation will be held in the Folkman Auditorium at Children's Hospital in Boston, 300 Longwood Ave. If unable to attend, you may watch online by going to

<www.childrenshospital.org/clinicalservices/Site2845/mainpageS2845P5.html>. For more information, contact Angela Lombardo at 857-218-4329 or <angela.lombardo@childrens.harvard.edu>.

- Oct. 2 **NAMI Cambridge Middlesex presents *I'm Not Sick, I Don't Need Help: How to Help Someone with Mental Illness Accept Treatment*** – Sponsored by NAMI Cambridge Middlesex, this event will feature author Xavier Amador, Ph.D. Parents, siblings, family members, and practitioners will all gain practical communication tools from Dr. Amador's presentation into how to gain the trust of a loved one or patient with mental illness who does not believe he or she needs help. A professor at Columbia University, Dr. Amador created his highly effective LEAP Program (Listen-Emphasize-Agree-Partner) to address the problem of anosognosia, the inability to perceive that one is ill. This event is free and open to the public and will be held from 6-8:30pm at the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway. For more information, see <www.nami-cambridgemiddlesex.org>, call 617-984-0527 or email <john@nami-cambridgemiddlesex.org>.
- Oct. 2 **4-Week FREE Creativity + Healing Workshops in Cambridge for women survivors of all types of sexual violence** – Offered by the Survivor Theatre Project, this 4-week set of workshops will be held in Central Square, Cambridge on Tuesdays from 6-8pm. This is an opportunity to explore new, creative and practical tools for self-expression and healing through theatre, movement, music, writing and collage. Each workshop has a unique theme, with "Language of the Heart" as the theme for October 2. The workshops are for survivors of all types of sexual violence who identify and live as women, and participants are asked to sign up for the entire 4 week series. For more information or to apply, e-mail: <survivortheatreproject@gmail.com> or call Antonieta Gimeno at 917-981-1625 or Martha Rogers at 978-408-9233.
- Oct. 8 **K'sharim: Connecting People with Disabilities to Jewish Life** – K'sharim (Hebrew for "connections") is an innovative undertaking by Boston's Jewish community designed to involve people with disabilities in all facets of Jewish life. K'sharim is for teens and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers as well as for the host synagogue communities. Newcomers are always welcome to any and all K'sharim activities. This evening's Simchat Torah service and refreshments will be held from 6-8pm at the Temple Emeth, 194 Grove Street, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. For more information about K'sharim and its programs, contact Jan Klein, coordinator of Friend 2 Friend of Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters at 617-558-6548 or by e-mail at <jan@jbbbs.org> or Judy Pearl, Director of Special Needs Services for the JCCs of Greater Boston, at 617-558-6508 or by e-mail at <jpearl@jccgb.org>.
- Oct. 11 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – Meets in the 2nd floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.
- Oct. 13 **A Night to Believe – OCD Awareness Week 2012** – Sponsored by the International OCD Foundation, this is a night of music, art, good company, and inspirational stories about life with OCD. The event will include appetizers and a cash bar, plus music, a silent auction, and reception featuring the 2012 Dare to Believe Contest Winners. The event runs from 6-9pm and will be held in the Back Bay Ballroom at the Sheraton Boston, 39 Dalton Street, Boston, MA. Tickets are \$7.50 until October 10, when the price goes up to \$10. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit <www.ocfoundation.org/nighttobelieve> or call 617-973-5801.
- Oct. 16 **White Cane Day at the State House** – The white cane is a symbol of independence for Individuals with blindness, allowing legally blind individuals to travel independently. International White Cane Day is on October 15, and is a day of awareness and celebration. Join the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) and others at the Grand Staircase of the Statehouse in Boston from 10am-noon to celebrate this day and raise awareness of White Cane Laws. For more information, contact Meg Robertson, Director

of the Orientation & Mobility Department at the MCB at <Meg.Robertson@state.ma.us> or by phone at 617-626-7581.

- Oct. 16 **Creativity + Healing Workshop for Women Survivors of Sexual Violence: *Home*** – Offered by the Survivor Theatre Project, this is the second in a 4-part set of workshops held in Central Square, Cambridge on Tuesdays from 6-8pm. See October 2 listing for details.
- Oct. 17 **Successful Solutions: New Approaches to Integrating People with Disabilities into the Workplace** – Sponsored by CCPD, the Cambridge Employees' Committee on Diversity and the Department of Human Service Programs, this event commemorating October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month is an opportunity to learn about some novel strategies for addressing employment barriers. The panel is comprised of four experts: Carolyn Sarante, Employee Relations Compliance Specialist, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Daniel T. Craven, Medical Sector Liaison, MA Rehabilitation Commission; Daniel B. Fisher, MD, Ph.D, Executive Director, National Empowerment Center; and Jack A. Carroll, Director, Human Resources, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network. The panel will be moderated by Oz Mondejar, VP of Human Resources, Community Relations and Communications, Partners Continuing Care. This panel presentation will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway from 6pm-8pm, with light refreshments served from 5:30-6pm. Employees, those seeking employment, and employers are all welcome and encouraged to attend. For ASL interpreters or other accommodations, please contact CCPD by October 8th at 617-349-4692 (voice), 617-492-0235 (TTY) or by email at <ccpd@cambridgema.gov>. This event is free and open to the public, no registration required.
- Oct. 20 **Annual NAMI Massachusetts Convention in Marlborough - 30 Years of Progress: *Shining A Light on Mental Health & Recovery*** – The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presents A. Kathryn Power, M.ED., SAMHSA Regional Administrator as the keynote speaker at their 30th Annual Convention, which will be held from 8am-4pm at the Best Western Royal Hotel and Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752. The Convention will also include workshops, an exhibitors' hall and Consumer Art Marketplace. For more information or to [purchase a ticket](http://www.namimass.org/events/30th-annual-nami-massachusetts-state-convention), see <www.namimass.org/events/30th-annual-nami-massachusetts-state-convention>, call 800-370-9085 or email <info@namimass.org>.
- Oct. 28 **Internet Safety and Etiquette for Teens and Young Adults** – This workshop, which is geared toward all teens and young adults, will teach participants how to use the internet and social media applications such as Facebook safely in order to protect themselves and others while “connected.” Facilitated by Lynne Mitchell, LICSW, a parent of four children including a young adult with Asperger's syndrome, this training will be held from 2-3:30pm at the Leventhal-Sidman Jewish Community Center, 333 Nahanton Street, Newton, and costs \$10/person. Parents and caregivers are welcome. To register, call 617-558-6508 or email <specialneeds@jccgb.org>.
- Oct. 30 **Creativity + Healing Workshop for Women Survivors of Sexual Violence: *Collage*** – Offered by the Survivor Theatre Project, this is the third in a 4-part set of workshops held in Central Square, Cambridge on Tuesdays from 6-8pm. See October 2 listing for details.
- Nov. 3 **Caring Connections Support Group for Family Members & Caretakers of People with MS** – Multiple sclerosis brings many changes and challenges not only to the person with MS, but also to their family and friends. Family members of people with MS need support too, especially caregivers. Providing care and/or support can be physically and emotionally challenging and the health and well-being of family members and caregivers is essential in enabling healthy relationships and supportive environments. Caregivers and family members are invited to attend this free informal meeting for the opportunity to discuss the effect of MS on their lives and to share their struggles and solutions with each other. This support group is sponsored by the National MS Society

and will be held from 10am-12pm at the National MS Society Chapter Office, 101 A First Ave., Suite 6, Waltham, MA. Pre-registration is required by October 30. For more information or to register, call 1-800-344-4867.

Nov. 7 **FREE Parent Training in Cambridge: Basic Rights in Special Education** – Offered by the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN), this workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with their child's school to decide the child's eligibility for special education, and to plan, make decisions and monitor their child's progress in school. Workshop materials are also available in Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese. This workshop will be held at the Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School, 459 Broadway, from 6:30-8:30pm. Although free and open to the public, pre-registration is required. For more information, call 617-236-7210, visit <www.fcsn.org/pti/workshops/home.php>, or email <info@fcsn.org>.

Nov. 8 **Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting** – Meets in the 2nd floor conference room at 51 Inman Street, Cambridge from 5:30pm, with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice) or 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.

Nov. 13 **Creativity + Healing Workshop for Women Survivors of Sexual Violence: *Coming into Our Bloomtime*** – Offered by the Survivor Theatre Project, this is the fourth in a 4-part set of workshops held in Central Square, Cambridge on Tuesdays from 6-8pm. See October 2 listing for details.

Nov. 14-16 **ArchitectureBoston Expo (ABX), featuring *Universal Design: Accessibility Exhibit*** – When it comes to making spaces accessible, the devil is in the details. ABX (formerly BuildBoston) will feature an interactive exhibit revealing these details, including two ramps, toilet rooms, and kitchenettes, meant to look identical to one another. One will be universally designed and easy to use, while the other will have common design errors (sometimes quite subtle) making it difficult or impossible to use. ABX attendees are encouraged to navigate through the space with a wheelchair, scooter, crutches, or a cane — all will be provided. They will be assisted by volunteers with (real) disabilities and members of the BSA Access and Design for Aging committees, who will both ensure that attendees are safe, and can explain the design distinctions that make one side much more user-friendly than the other. ABX 2012 will be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston. Admission to the exhibit hall is free if you register by October 31. For more information, including exhibit hall hours, or to register, visit <www.abexpo.com>, call 508-743-8564 or email <abx@xpressreg.net>.

Weekly & Recurring Events

Ongoing

Injured Worker Support Meetings – Meetings are scheduled by appointment, often the 1st Wednesday of the month, 5:15 - 6:45 pm, but other times can be arranged. Meetings/appointments usually take place at 650 Beacon Street, Kenmore Square, Boston, 4th Floor Conference Room (close to the Kenmore Square MBTA station, a few doors to the right of Barnes & Noble). RSI Action volunteers answer questions and provide resources and support, including the opportunity to view their provider evaluation book, to people with RSIs (Repetitive Strain Injuries) or other workplace injuries. Discussion topics have included medical treatment, insurance/legal issues, and speech recognition software. For more information or to set up a meeting, call 617-247-6827, or go to <www.rsiaction.org>.

Mondays

Low Vision Support Group – meets on the 2nd Monday of each month from 10-11:30am at the North Cambridge Senior Center, 2050 Mass Ave. While geared towards seniors, the group is open to all ages. For more information, contact Barbara Duford at <marksgirl4951@gmail.com>.

NAMI Connection – a support group for adults with mental illness sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), meets every Monday, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Somerville Recovery Learning Center, 153 South St, 2nd Floor in Somerville. The group is free and open to all who self-identify as having a mental illness, regardless of diagnosis. For more information, contact Janel Tan at 617-863-5388 or <tanj@vinfen.org>.

NAMI Support Group for Caregivers – Sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, this is a free support group for family members, friends and other caregivers of persons with mental illness that provides understanding, comfort, hope and help. This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:30pm at the Cambridge Hospital Learning Center A, 3rd Floor, 1493 Cambridge Street. For more information, see <www.namimass.org/programs>, e-mail <helpline@namimass.org>, or call Elizabeth at 781-646-0397.

Tuesdays

Boston Voice Users – this group for people who use or are interested in using speech recognition or dictation software meets from approximately 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at MIT in Building 2, Rm.135. Members explore the developments, available tools and products, and best use of personal computer-based speech-recognition, and invite both commercial and noncommercial entities to present at meetings. To find out more about meetings and discussions go to <www.bostonvoiceusers.org>.

Wednesdays

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT) meets 1 – 3 p.m. at the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, 2nd floor Conference Room #2 on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Call 617-973-7507 voice or 617-973-7089 TTY or e-mail <aact@ctps.org> for more information or to request interpreters. Security measures require proper ID for access to meetings.

Access to Art: Explorations – Offered by the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston, this is an interactive, multidisciplinary evening workshop that meets at 6pm in the Huntington Avenue Entrance Lobby on the 1st Wednesday of the month for adults with disabilities, with a focus on cognitive disabilities and disabilities that may affect verbal communication. This program is always multi-sensory and does not require one to be verbal. This program was developed with the intention of having it be as inclusive as possible, thus friends and family members are welcome and encouraged to come and take part. This program is led by a facilitator with experience in both art and theatre and one or more musicians. This program is NOT for groups, and advance notice is appreciated. For more information, see <www.mfa.org> or contact Valarie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or Hannah Goodwin at 617-369-3189, or e-mail <access@mfa.org>.

Amputee Support Group – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, all amputees, their family and friends are invited to socialize and discuss common areas of interest, including accessibility and resources, as well as to provide support and share coping strategies. Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 1-2pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8th floor of Spaulding Rehab Hospital, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see <www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or contact Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <sejohnson@partners.org>.

Assistive Technology Resource Center (ARTC) Open House – The ARTC, which helps people with disabilities in Eastern Massachusetts make informed decisions about assistive technology they can use to increase their independence at home, on the job or in school, holds an open house on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 8:30am-4:30pm. These FREE monthly open houses provide an opportunity to see what kinds of assistive technology products are available, and to try them out. The ARTC is located at the Boston Easter Seals office, 89 South Street (one block from MBTA South Station). Visit <www.eastersealsma.org>, call 617-226-2634, or email <ARTC@eastersealsma.org> for more information.

Central Square Resume Writing & Job Hunting, FREE Drop-in Assistance – Free help for adults needing assistance with making resumes or job hunting, offered on a first come, first served basis. Offered every Wednesday from 1-3pm at the Central Square Branch of the Cambridge Public Library (45 Pearl Street), this opportunity for assistance is open to all. For more information, contact Maria Balestrieri at <mbalestrieri@cambridgema.gov> or 617-349-4013.

DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group meets every Wednesday evening, 7-9pm at McLean Hospital in Belmont (de Marneffe Building, 1st floor lobby). Includes a lecture on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call 617-855-2795 or see <www.dbsaboston.org> for more information.

Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors – The Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston offers a series of introductory one-on-one guided tours to the Museum and its collections for blind and low vision individuals who want to build a deeper relationship with the Museum. Each monthly session focuses on a different collection and includes wayfinding and verbal description of spaces. These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am and the 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Individuals can attend one or more sessions, whichever interests them. Guided tours can also be scheduled at other times. Pre-registration is not required unless a visitor needs a sighted guide or other access accommodation. Contact Valerie Burrows at 617-369-3302 or <vburrows@mfa.org> to register. Call 617-369-3189 or e-mail <access@mfa.org> or go to <www.mfa.org> for more information. The MFA is located at 465 Huntington Avenue in Boston, and is accessible by the Green line “E” train to the “Museum of Fine Arts” stop, or the Orange line train to the “Ruggles” stop.

Free introductory tour of MFA in sign language & with assistive listening devices – A new monthly offering at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) in Boston for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These tours will be given at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. No pre-registration is required; meet at the Sharf Visitor Center in the MFA. For more information about accessible programs Valerie Burrows at 617-369-3302 voice, 617-267-9703 TTY or e-mail <access@mfa.org>.

Open Support Group for Adults on the Autism Spectrum – Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 pm at the offices of the Asperger’s Association of New England (AANE), 85 Main St., Suite 101, Watertown, MA. Hosted by Jamie Freed; a \$5 donation is suggested. RSVP to 617-393-3824, x310 or <Jamie.Freed@aane.org>.

Senior Support Group for Caregivers over 60 – meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Family Resource Center, 20 Gould Street in Reading. Share and learn with other seniors who have adult family members with developmental disabilities. For meeting times or more information, contact Judy SantaMaria at 781-942-4888, x4022 or <familysupport@theemarc.org>.

Spaulding Stroke Support Group – This community-based support group offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH) provides socialization and education for stroke survivors and meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 3-4pm in Conference Room 8A on the 8th floor of SRH, 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see

<www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or contact Karen Halfon at 617-573-7143 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <khalfon@partners.org>.

Thursdays

Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) Monthly Meeting – generally meets on the 2nd Thursday, at 51 Inman Street, 2nd floor Conference Room, 5:30 to 7 p.m. with opportunity for public comment. Call 617-349-4692 (voice), 617-492-0235 (TTY) or e-mail <kthurman@cambridgema.gov> for more information or to request accommodations.

DBSA-Boston (Depression Bipolar Support Alliance of Boston) Support Group – meets at Mass. General Hospital every Thursday, 7 - 9 p.m. in the Schiff Conference Center Room, Suite 4A on the 4th floor in the Yawkey Building. Follow the signs. Meetings are free and open to public. For more information call 617-855-2795 or e-mail <mghgroup@dbsaboston.org>.

Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Support Group – Offered by Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital (SRH), this weekly support group, which meets every Thursday from 4-5pm, is for anyone affected by SCI, to help and inspire the newly injured through role models and peer mentors, and to support individuals and family members as they begin their post-injury journeys. This group is run by Dr. Chris Carter and is held in GBC Office at SRH on the 9th Floor at SRH (take elevator to 9th Floor, make a left off the elevator; second to last door on the right), 125 Nashua Street in Boston (adjacent to the TD Bank Garden; near MBTA North Station). For more information, see:
<www.spauldingrehab.org/events/supportgroupevents> or 617-573-2081 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), or by e-mail at <sciboston@aol.com>.

Saturdays

Boston Acquired Brain Injury Support Group (BABIS) – The mission of this free support group is to provide a positive forum for peer socialization, hope and education for people with acquired brain injury, their family and friends. This group is held on the 1st Saturday of the month, from 10am-12pm at Spaulding Rehab Hospital, conference rooms 8A & AB, 125 Nashua Street, Boston. No registration required, just show up! For more information, call Sally Johnson, LICSW at 617-573-2539 (voice), 1-800-439-2370 (TTY), e-mail <babisgroup@hotmail.com>, or see <www.babis.info>.

Beyond the Spectrum: Adventures in Art for Children with Autism – Offered by the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Artful Adventures offers a specially designed program for children ages 8-12 on the Autism Spectrum, including Asperger's Syndrome, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Upon arrival children will be divided into groups by age and/or needs, and the program meets on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Each class lasts an hour and a half and combines gallery exploration with an art-making activity. Pre-registration is required by the prior Tuesday. The cost is \$8.00 per child (includes materials and museum admission), and one adult is admitted free with each child ticket, which also includes discounted parking. The program meets in the Education Center in Druker Family Pavilion, Room 159 at 10:20am before the start of each class. For more information, or to pre-register, go to <www.mfa.org/programs/community-programs/beyond-the-spectrum>, call 617-369-3303 or email <artfuladventures@mfa.org>.

Sundays

Feeling for Form Introductory Tour of MFA for blind & low vision visitors – These tours are given on the 1st Sunday of the month at 10:30 am. Pre-registration is not required for the Sunday tours unless a sighted guide or other access accommodation is needed. See Wednesday listing for details.

“Quiet Day” at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation: The Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation in Waltham hosts “Quiet Day” for children with Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), which affects a variety of disabilities, on the last Sunday of the month from 10am to 5pm. During Quiet Day, the museum will disable any exhibit that produces uncomfortable noise levels, equipment such as sound block headphones, weighted blankets will be offered, and a separate space for reducing stimuli will be available. Admission is \$7.00 per adult and \$5.00 per child, student or senior. Free to children under 6, active and retired US Military, and Museum members. For more information, email <info@crmi.org> or call 781-893-5410 or 617-823-5081.

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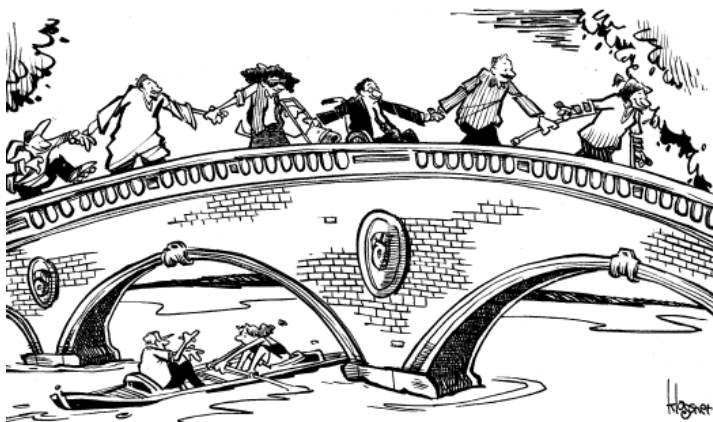
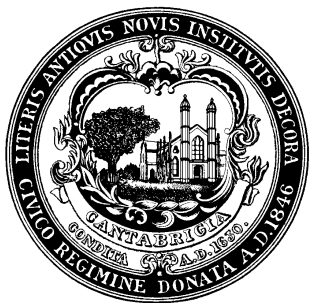
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AccessLetter is produced by the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities,
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Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities

51 Inman Street, second floor

Cambridge, MA 02139